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Solutions Edu Seeks IACET Accreditation

Ed Brown & Sherrie Householder

The ANSWER SDC is in the process of obtaining Continuing Education Units (CEUs) Accreditation, for classes offered by the Solutions Edu program, through the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET). IACET is the internationally recognized organization for standards and certification for continuing education and training, since its inception in 1968. The mission of IACET is to establish guidelines to promote and enhance quality continuing education and training through research, education, standard setting and certification.

The established guidelines evaluate the learning process, ensuring that education providers have well-defined programs and policies that lead to quality educational offerings. The CEU was created to measure the amount of continuing education successfully completed - one (1) CEU is equal to ten (10) contact hours. Under IACET's care, the IACET CEU has evolved from a quantitative measure to a hallmark of quality training and instruction by responsible, qualified organizations. Many organizations offer some form of continuing education credit, but only the IACET CEU is held to strict, research-based IACET Criteria and Guidelines for Continuing Education and Training.

Upon receipt of accreditation from the IACET, Solutions Edu will be positioned to provide CEUs to students who complete each of the Solutions Edu course offerings. The ANSWER SDC is completing the application process and is also establishing a database with extensive tracking and learning management capabilities. Students who have attended a Solutions Edu sponsored course will have historical data available to them upon request. Once authorized, CEUs will be issued to individual students who have successfully completed a course of training through Solutions Edu.

ANSWER SDC Teams with SBA to Honor Charis and TechFlow

Ed Brown

Rob Baum, President of TechFlow, receives Small Business of the Year Award, presented by Ed Brown of the ANSWER SDC

On June 5th, the ANSWER SDC presented Small Business of the Year Awards at the 2002 Small and Emerging Business Annual Awards Luncheon. The event was co-sponsored by the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Small Business Administration. The award ceremony provided a venue to salute small business as the backbone of the American Economy, leading the way in innovation and bringing new ideas and technology to the marketplace.

TechScape 2002 Comes to the Pacific Northwest

Mimi Bruce

TechScape 2002 is set to go in Seattle, Washington on August 20th and is prepared to bring together industry, government and DoD officials for the premier IT event in the Pacific Northwest. This two-day conference and exposition, sponsored by GSA, FTS R10 and AFCEA, features keynote speakers, hundreds of technology exhibits, and workshops conducted by industry experts. The event includes workshops on timely IT topics and offers participants the chance to customize and personalize their conference agenda! Specific topics include Homeland Security, Network Security, Wireless Communications, Voice-over IP &VTC PKI, Smart Card Technology, and Technology Management/Leadership.

Mimi Bruce of the ANSWER SDC is working with Jim Swartwood of Region 10, to coordinate joint SDC representation. SDC representatives from across the country will discuss the Concept of Operations, how contracts are developed, the future of

(Continued – ANSWER SDC Teams with SBA to Honor Charis and TechFlow)

Each year, the President of the United States designates National Small Business Week to recognize the economic and philanthropic contributions that small businesses make to our local economy. The awards luncheon provided an opportunity for government to give special recognition to industry. To this end, the ANSWER Solutions Development Center presented awards to John Gifford, President of Charis Corporation, and Rob Baum, President of TechFlow, Inc.

The award to Charis focused on their efforts in the fields of environmental and information technology and to their spirit of partnership and customer support with ITS on the ANSWER Contract.

The award to TechFlow recognized their support to GSA's Federal Technology Service through their vision of eCommerce, the IT-Solutions Shop.

John Gifford, President of Charis, receives Small Business of the Year Award, presented by Ed Brown of the ANSWER SDC

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Tech Eval Orals Completed for 3GS

Ann Gladys

The Technical Evaluation and Orals for 3GS were conducted during the week of May 20th at Metro Park. CO for 3GS is Greg Byrd, with Lisa Akers as Tech Eval Chair. The voting panel includes members of the 3GS Executive Board Group; Mark Aucello, Roz Fullerton, Sharon O'Toole, Dan Blackburn, Brenda Smith, Marilyn Dodd, and Ann Gladys (SSEB Chair). Next on the 3GS agenda is the evaluation of the Operational Capabilities Demonstration, slated for the week of June 17th in the Falls Church area. Award of 3GS is expected in early August.

(Continued – TechScape 2002 Comes to the Pacific Northwest)

Government Wide Acquisition Contracts (GWACs), and how small business can participate in current and future GWAC opportunities.

The conference provides a venue for a "Regional forum" where professionals can explore and discuss technical issues, policy questions and technology developments. For additional information on the conference and/or to register go to http://www.afcea.org.

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Tech Refresh III Process Continues

Mimi Bruce

Two critical documents that begin the modification cycle for Tech Refresh III have been completed; a justification paper and matrix. These documents show how the ANSWER Scope and Section C of the contract, cross-walk to each proposed skill level in ANSWER.

The justification paper is written to support the inclusion of these skill levels into the contract and provides an overview of the Tech Refresh Summit, its purpose, a reference to the contract authority authorizing technical refreshment, objectives of the summit, and a paragraph on each functional area of technology.

The matrix compares each proposed skill level to ANSWER's Section C. This level of detail is required to support the rationale and basis for adding new skill levels to ANSWER.

This year's Tech Refresh III focused on six functional areas: Homeland Security, Communications, Web Evolution, Knowledge Management, Modeling and Simulation, and Environmental Systems. As a result, 15 new skill levels were developed.

The RFP for the Tech Refresh Mod was issued to the ANSWER Industry Partners on May 29th with proposals due by mid-June. Contract modification is expected in July.

DSL[1] Option Clause Will Not Be Exercised

Bill Archambeault

On May 28th, 2002, the DSL[1] PCO issued a letter to the DSL[1] Industry Partners informing them that in December 2002 the ANSWER SDC does not intend to exercise the Year 2 Option on the contract. Originally setup to promote telecommuting and to create a market for DSL, this multiple award contract has not generated the interest envisioned by its architects. Recent analyses of both performance and business growth indicates contract utilization to be marginal, and a client base that is merely "satisfied" with installation and service. Overall, GSA Schedules appear to be the most viable source for multiple-line DSL services, so a business decision was made to allow the contract to expire and to leverage and reapply internal resources more appropriately. Agencies needing only a few lines for DSL service can place orders on their organization's credit card directly with their local provider. For current customers using the DSL[1] vehicle, follow-up calls have been made to all partners to determine appropriate transition strategies for current services.